

Message Text

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22

ACTION INR-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, KS

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR 31ST UNGA

REF: STATE 181907

1. EMBASSY FILES CONTAIN PHOTOGRAPHS OF KIM CHONG-TAE, YI YONG-HUI, AND KIM KYONG-WON. COPIES ARE BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

2. KIM KYONG-WON WAS BORN JUNE 12, 1936 IN CHIN-NAM-P'O, SOUTH PYONG-AN PROVINCE, HE ATTENDED SCHOOL IN P'YONG-YANG AND FLED TO ROK IN DECEMBER, 1950.

EDUCATION:

1955 LEFT SEOUL UNIVERSITY NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN MID-COURSE

1959 GRADUATED FROM WILLIAMS COLLEGE, MAGNA CUM LAUDE (PBK 1958)

1963 RECEIVED PH.D. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY AFTER STUDYING UNDER DR. HENRY KISSINGER

CAREER:

1963 ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT YORK COLLEGE, TORONTO

1967 ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

1970 PROFESSOR AT GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NYU

1971 PROFESSOR AT COLLEGE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND

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ECONOMICS, KOREA INIVERSITY, SEOUL

HEAD, OFFICE OF POLICY AND SCIENCE, ASIATIC RESEARCH
CENTER

1973 PROFESSOR FOR POLICY ASSESSMENT

1975 SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS (VICE MINISTER LEVEL)

LANGUAGE CAPABILITY: KOREAN NATIVE, ENGLISH ESSENTIALLY
S-5/R-5. OTHER LANGUAGE ABILITY NOT KNOWN.

FAMILY: WIFE PARK A-GYONG (BORN MARCH 27, 1937), IS A PIANIST
AND LECTURER AT COLLEGE OF MUSIC, SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.
SONS, KIM HON-SU (BORN DECEMBER 13, 1961) AND KIM YU-SU
(BORN JUNE 17, 1967) WERE BOTH BORN IN THE U.S.

HOBBIES: TENNIS AND MUSIC.

WELL KNOWN TO MANY EMBASSY OFFICERS INCLUDING THE AMBASSADOR
SINCE HIS RETURN TO KOREA FROM THE U.S. IN 1971, KIM IS
WIDELY CONSIDERED AMONG THE MOST BRILLIANT OF KOREA'S YOUNGER
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SPECIALISTS. HE HAS CLEARLY PROVEN
IN A SHORT TIME IN HIS NEW BLUE HOUSE ADVISORY ROLE TO BE ONE
OF THE TWO OR THREE MOST ARTICULATE AND PERSUASIVE PUBLIC AS
WELL AS PRIVATE REPRESENTATIVES OF ROKG FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS
AND WE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE LOBBYING ROLE AT
THE 31ST UNGA SHOULD HE ATTEND. KIM'S ABILITY TO GET
THINGS DONE WITHIN THE INTRICATE, OFTEN BACK-BITING ROK
BUREACRACY IS LESS WELL KNOWN, BUT WITH ALLOWANCES FOR LACK
OF THAT PARTICULAR EXPERIENCE, HIS ABILITY AND BLUE HOUSE
POSITION WOULD GIVE HIM CLOUT AS A MEMBER OF THE ROKDEL. LIKE
THE ROK'S CURRENT AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S., HAHM PYONG-CHOON,
WITH WHOM HE IS OFTEN COMPARED, KIM CAN BE INTELLECTUALLY
ARROGANT AND IS RATHER FACILE, WITNESS THE OVERNIGHT
CHANGE FROM RELATIVELY OBJECTIVE COMMENTATOR TO SOMETIMES
SLICK PROPONENT OF ROKG POLICIES WHEN HE MOVED TO THE BLUE
HOUSE. BY BACKGROUND AND SELF PROFESSION "PRO-U.S.," SUSPECT
LIKE MANY KOREANS HE IS AT HEART "PRO KIM" AND WILL
DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO GET TO THE TOP OF KOREA'S POLITICAL
PILE. WE HAVE FOUND KIM TO BE A RELIABLE SOURCE OF
ACCURATE INFORMATION CONCERNING ROK GOVERNMENT THINKING.

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3. EMBASSY FILES DO NOT CONTAIN PHOTOGRAPH OF CHONG-U-YONG
OR DATA ON HIS FAMILY, HOBBIES, OR LANGUAGE CAPABILITY.

4. PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENT OF YI YONG-HUI AND CHONG U-YONG:

DR. YI PROJECTS AS A RELATIVELY BALANCED, SCHOLARLY AND
PERSUASIVE ADVOCATE OF ROKG POLITIES. KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE
U.S. AND FULLY AWARE OF AMERICAN DIFFICULTIES WITH KOREANS,

PARTICULARLY IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA, HE PUTS AS REASONABLE A FACE ON THE PARK REGIME AS IS POSSIBLE WHEN TALKING TO U.S. FRIENDS. COMMENTS OF ANOTHER BLUE HOUSE ASSISTANT FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS INDICATE THAT YI'S SURFACE APPEAL HOWEVER, MAY BELIE A SELF-SEEKING AND PERHAPS LESS FRIENDLY REAL ATTITUDE. WHILE APPARENTLY INTELLIGENT AND ONE OF THE MORE SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANTS, YI'S REAL EFFECTIVENESS WITHIN THE BLUE HOUSE HEIRARCHY AND ROKG IS UNCLEAR. DR. YI WAS WIDELY EXPECTED TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF SENIOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT (FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS) IN THE BLUE HOUSE HIERARCHY VACATED BY CHOE HYU-HA WHO BECAME PRIME MINISTER. THIS POSITION WAS, HOWEVER, ASSUMED BY A CAREER BUREAUCRAT, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER KIM TONG-CHO, INDICATING THAT DR. YI LOST OUT IN THE COMPETITION FOR THIS ROLE. PART OF THE RATIONALE FOR KIM'S APPOINTMENT WAS THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY STAFF WAS TOO HEAVILY DOMINATED BY SCHOLARS--A POSSIBLE REFLECTION ON DR. YI'S POSITION IN THE BLUE HOUSE. A FORMER PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AT SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, DR. YI HAS A DEDICATED (BUT NOT ORGANIZED) FOLLOWING OF FORMER STUDENTS, IN THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT AND IN THE ACADEMIC WORLD WHO RESPECT AND ADMIRE HIM FOR HIS INCISIVE ANALYTICAL ABILITY AND APPARENTLY WELL-DESERVED REPUTATION FOR INTELLECTUAL HONESTY.

5. CHONG WOO-YONG: SHONG IS PERHAPS THE MOST BLUNT AND OPENLY CRITICAL PERSONALITY AMONG THE CURRENT CROP OF MOFA BUREAU DIRECTORS. HE WAS A STRONG ADVOCATE OF ROKG ARGUMENTS EARLY IN 1976 TO BACK AWAY FROM THE 31ST UNGA DEBATE DESPITE CONTRARY U.S. PRESSURES. WHILE LESS EASY TO WORK WITH THAN SOME, CHONG IS NONETHELESS IMPRESSIVELY PRECISE AND WELL VERSED ON HIS UN RESPONSIBILITIES AND HAS CLEARLY BEEN DEPENDED ON FOR READY ANSWERS IN THE FREQUENT MEETINGS THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS HAD WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON THE UN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISSUE. EMBASSY BELIEVES HE CAN BE COUNTED ON AT THE 31ST UNGA TO PORTRAY ACCURATELY ROK VIEWS AND POSITIONS AND TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO HIS DELEGATIONS'S TACTICAL ACTIVITIES. SINCE U.S. AND KOREAN UN POLICIES HAVE MOVED CLOSER TOGETHER, CHONG'S PERSONAL ATTITUDE IN RELATIONS WITH AMERICANS HAS MARKEDLY IMPORIVED. TO A DEGREE, HE PERMITS HIS PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDES TO DICTATE HIS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS. STERN

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